State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION Shepard Building 255 Westminster Street Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

NEWS RELEASE

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Regents to Hold Board Meetings in Community Settings

In order to reach out to communities of students, educators, and interested residents from around the state, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education will hold Board meetings in community settings.

The Board will hold its August meeting on Thursday (Aug. 6th), at 4 p.m., at the Juanita Sanchez Complex (2nd floor, library), in Providence.

"By meeting in a community setting, we hope to make it possible for more Rhode Islanders to become engaged in public education," said Robert G. Flanders, Jr., Esq., Chairman of the Board of Regents. "We are eager to hear from students, educators, and concerned residents, and we are asking the public to hold us accountable for results."

"Community-based meetings will enable the Board of Regents to bring its message to even more Rhode Islanders," said Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. "These meetings will help the Regents to listen to feedback and build public support for initiatives as we work together to set aggressive goals to advance learning for our students."

In order to encourage attendance at the meeting on Thursday, the Regents, with the help of Young Voices and Youth in Action, have circulated fliers in English and Spanish in the neighborhood of the Juanita Sanchez Complex. The Regents have also notified several community groups about the neighborhood meeting, including the John Hope Settlement House, CHisPA, Progreso Latino, the Institute for the Study & Practice of Nonviolence, and the West End Community Center.

Members of the community and members of the media are encouraged to attend the Board meeting on Thursday. Agenda items include consideration for approval of evaluation standards and a Code of Professional Responsibility for educators.

Copies of the agenda and meeting materials are available from Sharon Osborne: sharon.osborne@ride.ri.gov